

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07813 231926Z

71

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ANNIVERSARY POSTPONEMENT
AND CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SCIENTISTS IN MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 5822 AND PREVIOUS

1. LEADING MOSCOW JEWISH ACTIVIST GAVE EMBOFF RUNDOWN OF FEELINGS OF SEVERAL WELL-KNOWN JEWISH SCIENTISTS, INCLUDING PROFESSORS LEVICH, LERNER AND VORONEL, RE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ANNIVERSARY POSTPONEMENT. MAJOR REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT CLAIMED TO BE FEAR OF INCIDENT DURING CLEBRATION INVOLVING SOVIET JEWISH SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN REFUSED EXIT VISAS TO ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, DURING ONE OF SESSIONS OF CONFERENCE OF PHYSICISTS HELD IN MOSCOW LATE LAST SUMMER AMERICAN SCIENTIST ROSE TO ANNOUNCE THAT SEMINAR WOULD BE HELD IN APARTMENT OF PHYSICIST VORONEL. SUBSEQUENTLY SOME FORTY FOREIGN SCIENTISTS MET IN VORONEL'S APARTMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION. AUTHORITIES THEREFORE FEARED REPETITION OF INICDENT OR SIMILAR SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07813 231926Z

JEWISH SCIENTISTS DURING ACADEMY CELEBRATION.

2. SOURCE ALSO CLAIMED THAT EIGHT NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SCIENTISTS TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW THIS SUMMER

(REFTEL. SINCE ACADEMY HAD NOT DONE AS WELL, ACADEMY OFFICIALS SUPPOSEDLY DID NOT WANT TO BE EMBARRASSED BY COMPARISON. JEWISH SCIENTISTS FEEL THAT KELDYSH ILLNESS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH POSTPONEMENT BECAUSE THEY FEEL HE IS MERELY A PAWN WHOSE ABSENCE DURING CELEBRATION WOULD NOT BE IMPORTANT. WHEN EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT CELEBRATION HAD ONLY BEEN POSTPONED AND THAT SMAE CONSIDERATIONS WOULD PERTAIN LATER ONE, SOURCE SAID GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT CELEBRATION WOULD NEVER BE HELD.

3. WITH REGARD TO THEIR OWN CONFERENCE, SOVIET JEWISH SPONSORS FEEL THEY HAVE AUTHORITIES OVER A BARREL, SINCE THEY BELIEVE REGIME WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT EITHER TO LOCK UP SPONSORS OR REFUSE VISAS TO PROMINENT FOREIGN SCIENTISTS. THEY ARE STILL PLANNING TO HOLD CONFERENCE, NOW APPARENTLY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JULY.

4. COMMENT: WHILE JEWISH SCIENTISTS MENTIONED ABOVE PRESUMABLY KNOW WORKING OF ACADEMY WELL, PROBABILITY

THAT THEIR VIEWS ARE COLORED BY THEIR CURRENT SITUATION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. FURTHERMORE, THEIR VIEW OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S IMPOTENCE IN PARAGRAPH 3 IS NOT SHARED BY THE EMBASSY. NOR WOULD WE AGREE THAT KELDYSH CAN BE WRITTEN OFF AS CAVALIERLY AS DO THE JEWISH SCIENTISTS.
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